

LISTING OF CLAIMS  
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1. (Currently amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to ~~explicitly order the relative~~ give an ordinal ranking with to each of a ~~set~~ plurality of said nodes listed under another of said nodes which functions as a parent node by dragging a visual representation of one or more of said plurality of nodes to a desired position relative to a visual representation of others of said plurality of nodes in a list displayed under said parent node, so as to indicate the ranking of said plurality of nodes under said parent node by their relative order in said list;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of ~~said a~~ set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of ~~the explicit said ordinal ranking~~ given to each of said nodes by each of a group of individual users; and

displaying said set of nodes under said parent node ordered in a list as a function of the group ordinal ranking calculated.

2. (Previously presented) A computerized method as in claim 1 wherein:

said method further includes providing a user interface enabling a user to select from different groups of users; and

wherein said step of calculating a group ordinal ranking, calculates the ordinal ranking as a function of the selected group based on the explicit ordinal rankings given to nodes by users of the selected group.

3. (Currently amended) A computerized method as in Claim 1 wherein there are a plurality of said parent nodes under which other nodes are ranked by said method, including some parent nodes of a first hierarchical level under which are ranked other of said parent nodes of a second hierarchical level by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a ~~hierarchy~~ hierarchical list in which nodes are ordered by said calculated ordinal ranking under parent nodes of both said first and second hierarchical levels.

4. (Currently amended) A computerized method as in Claim 3 wherein:

said user interface which allows users to ~~associate~~ give an ordinal ranking with to nodes, enables users to associate a separate ordinal ranking of one node under each of a plurality of said parent nodes; and

said calculating of a group ordinal ranking calculates a separate ranking for a said one node under each of said plurality of parent nodes.

5. (Currently Amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

[-]storing a plurality of information nodes;

[-]providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to ~~associate a relative~~ given an ordinal ranking with to each of a plurality ~~set~~ of said nodes under another of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

[-]calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of ~~said~~ a set of said ranked nodes under said parent node, as a function of the ordinal ranking given to each of said nodes by each of a group of individual users; and

[-]displaying said set of nodes under said parent node ordered as a function of the group ordinal ranking calculated-;

~~Wherein~~ wherein:

there are a plurality of said parent nodes under which other nodes are ranked by said method, including some parent nodes under which are ranked other of said parent nodes by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a hierarchy; and

said method further provides a user a hierarchy view expansion interface enabling users to selectively control which parent nodes are to have the nodes ranked under them displayed and which are not to have the parent nodes ranked under them displayed.

6. (Original) A computerized method as in Claim 5 wherein, when a first set of multiple parent nodes are displayed ranked under a given other parent node, the hierarchy view expansion interface allows a user to select to have nodes ranked under each of said first set of parent nodes be displayed at the same time, so as to create display of nodes which forms a hierarchical tree graph having multiple expanded branches.

7. (Original) A computerized method as in Claim 5 wherein the hierarchy view expansion interface allows a user to select to have the order in which nodes are displayed under parent nodes be determined by a set of one or more different ordering criteria, in which said group ordinal ranking is only one of the ordering criteria which a user can select to use for the ordering of nodes under a given parent node.

8. (Currently amended) A computerized method as in Claim 7 wherein said ordering criteria from which a user can select includes at least one from the following set of criteria:

date of node's creation in outline;

number of a certain type of votes which the node has received,

the amount of a given class of user activity which has been recorded in association with the node, and

the amount of change in a certain criteria associated with the node in a given period of time.

9. (Currently amended) A computerized method as in Claim 3 wherein:

some of said parent nodes ranked under another parent node are statement nodes which ~~make~~ display a verbal statement; and

some of said statement nodes are themselves parent nodes under which other statement nodes are ranked, which other statement node either support or oppose the statement made by their parent statement node.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

Wherein:

there are a plurality of said parent nodes under which other nodes are ranked by said method, which parent nodes are, themselves, ranked under another of said parent nodes by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a hierarchy;

users are provided a hierarchy view expansion interface enabling users to selectively control which parent nodes are to have the nodes ranked under them displayed and which are not to have the parent nodes ranked under them displayed; and

when a first set of multiple parent nodes are displayed ranked under a given other parent node, the hierarchy view expansion interface allows a user to select to have nodes ranked under each of said first set of parent nodes be displayed at the same time, so as to create a display of nodes which forms a hierarchical tree graph having multiple expanded branches.

15. (Previously presented) A computerized method as in Claim 14 wherein said hierarchy view expansion interface allows a user to selectively control how many of the top ranking nodes under a selected parent node are to be shown in said display.

16. (Previously presented) A computerized method as in Claim 14 wherein:

the hierarchy view expansion interface allows a user to select to have the order in which nodes are

displayed under a given parent node be determined by a selected one of a set of different ordering criteria; and

said group ordinal ranking is only one of said set of ordering criteria which a user can select to use for the ordering of nodes under said given parent node.

17. (Previously presented) A computerized method as in Claim 16 wherein said ordering criteria from which a user can select includes at least one from the following set of criteria:

date of nodes creation in outline;

number of a certain type of votes which the node has received;

the amount of a given class of user activity which has been recorded in association with the node, and

the amount of change in a certain criteria associated with the node in a given period of time.

18. (Currently amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of ~~link~~-nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

wherein:

said method further includes providing a user interface enabling a user to:

define a group of users by selecting which sets of one or more users are to be combined to form such a user group; and

choose a selected user group from a set of such user groups that have been previously defined by the user; and

said step of calculating a group ordinal ranking, calculates the ordinal ranking as a function of the selected group based on said values given to nodes by users of the selected user group.

19. (Currently amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;



calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of ~~link~~ nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

wherein:

said method further includes providing a user interface enabling a user to select from different groups of users;

wherein said step of calculating a group ordinal ranking, calculates the ordinal ranking as a function of the selected group based on said values given to nodes by users of the selected group;

there are a plurality of said parent nodes under which other nodes are ranked by said method, including some parent nodes under which are ranked other of said parent nodes by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a hierarchy;

said user interface enabling a user to select from different groups of users, enables a user to select different sets of users for different parent nodes; and

said calculating calculates said ordinal rankings under different parent nodes based on the different user groups selected for such parent nodes, so that said displaying displays nodes under different parent nodes ranked according to

the values selected for such nodes by different groups of users.

20. (Currently amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of ~~link~~-nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

[-W]wherein:

there is a first node hierarchy comprised of a first plurality of said parent nodes under which other of said nodes are ranked by said method, including some parent nodes under which are ranked other of said parent nodes by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a hierarchy;

there is second hierarchy of comprised of a second of plurality parent nodes which are index heading nodes, each having an associated text,

which index heading nodes are ordered  
alphabetically in said second hierarchy;  
said index heading nodes can have located under  
them in said second hierarchy:  
a set of one or more alphabetically ordered  
index heading nodes; and  
a set of one or more link nodes each  
providing a link to a node in said first  
hierarchy.

21. (Previously presented) A computerized method as in  
Claim 20, further including:

providing a user interface enabling each of a  
plurality of users to associate a selected one of a  
plurality of values with each of a set of said link  
nodes under one of said index heading nodes;  
calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said  
set of link nodes under said index heading node, as a  
function of the values given to said nodes by each of  
a group of individual users; and  
displaying said set of link nodes under said index  
heading node as a function of said calculated ordinal  
ranking.

22. (Currently amended) A computerized method of  
collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of ~~link~~-nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

~~Wherein~~wherein:

said method further includes providing a user interface enabling a user to select a time period which is a sub-set of the time during which users have been selecting said values for nodes; and

said step of calculating a group ordinal ranking, calculates the ordinal ranking as a function of the rankings given to nodes by said group of user and as a function of the relationship of said rankings to said selected time period.

23. (Currently amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes

under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of ~~link~~-nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

wherein:

said method further includes providing a user interface enabling a user to select a time period which is a sub-set of the time during which users have been selecting said values for nodes; and

said step of calculating a group ordinal ranking, calculates the ordinal ranking as a function of the rankings given to nodes by said group of user and as a function of the relationship of said rankings to said selected time period;

there are a plurality of said parent nodes under which other nodes are ranked by said method, including some parent nodes under which are ranked other of said parent nodes by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a hierarchy;

said user interface enabling a user to select a time period, enables a user to select different such time periods for different parent nodes; and

said calculating calculates the ordinal ranking under each of said different parent nodes as a

function of the rankings given to nodes by said group of user and as a function of the relationship of said rankings to the time period selected for each such parent node.

24. (Currently Amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users; and

displaying said set of ~~link~~ nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

~~Wherein~~wherein:

there are a plurality of said parent nodes under which other nodes are ranked by said method, which parent nodes are, themselves, ranked under another of said parent nodes by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a hierarchy; and

some of nodes which are ranked under other parent nodes have ranked in association with them a set of one or more action nodes, each of which action

nodes provides a suggestion for collaborative action upon the action node's associated node; and

said method further includes:

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said action nodes;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of action nodes as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of action nodes in association with the associated node ordered as a function of said action nodes' calculated ordinal ranking.

25. (Previously presented) A computerized method as in Claim 24 wherein the display of said action nodes include links, which if clicked by a user, cause the method to automatically make the action they suggest.

26. (Currently amended) A computerized method as in Claim 24 wherein ~~the~~ said method further includes:

automatically tracking actions taken by a user on a node having a set of associated action nodes; and

automatically selecting said value selected by a user for a given action node as a function of said automatic tracking of actions.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of ~~link~~-nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

providing a user interface for enabling a user to create and edit a message; and

providing a user interface for enabling a user to select, as a group~~s~~, the users who have selected to associate a given set of one or more of said values with a given node, and to select to address said message to said group.

29-33. (Canceled)



34. (Currently amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users;

displaying said set of ~~link~~-nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

wherein:

there are a plurality of said parent nodes under which other nodes are ranked by said method, including some parent nodes under which are ranked other of said parent nodes by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a hierarchy; and

further including:

providing a hierarchy view interface enabling users to select a given parent node in said hierarchy and to select to have a combined sub-node list displayed in association with the selected parent node which displays sub-nodes which have been ranked under the selected parent node and sub-nodes which have been ranked under

nodes which descend from the selected parent node in said hierarchy,

calculating a combined list ordinal ranking for each of said sub-nodes listed in said combined sub-node list as a function of the values given to said sub-nodes by each of said group of individual users under the selected parent node and its descendant nodes; and

displaying said sub-nodes in said combined sub-node list as a function of said calculated combined list ordinal ranking.

35. (Currently Amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users; and

displaying said set of ~~link~~-nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking;

~~Wherein~~wherein:

there are a plurality of said parent nodes under which other nodes are ranked by said method,

including some parent nodes under which are ranked other of said parent nodes by said method, so as to create a data structure which can be viewed as a hierarchy; and

users are provided an edit interface enabling each of a plurality of users to selectively edit portions of media contained in a selected node and to see edits which have been made to the selected node by other users.

36. (Previously presented) A computerized method as in Claim 35 further including:

said edit interface enables each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of edits which have been made to the selected node; and

further including

calculating an edit ordinal ranking for each of said edits made for the selected node as a function of the values given to said edits by each of said group of individual users; and displaying said edits in a list ordered as a function of said calculated edit ordinal ranking.

37. (Currently amended) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes on a server computer;

providing a user interface on a client computer enabling each of a plurality of users to associate a selected one of a plurality of values with each of a set of said nodes under another one of said nodes which functions as a parent node;

calculating on a server computer a group ordinal ranking of each of said set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of the values given to said nodes by each of a group of individual users; and

displaying on said client computer said set of ~~link~~ nodes under said parent node as a function of said calculated ordinal ranking; and

further including:

providing a user interface on a client computer allowing a user to define a quote occurring in media available at an address elsewhere on an internetwork than on said server computer, and an identification of said address;

downloading from said address to said server said media and verifying if said quote occurs in it, and if so generating verification media which identifies that said quote occurred in said media; and

providing a user interface on said client computer for enabling said user to insert said verification media into a node which can be stored in a one of said ranked nodes on said server

38. (Previously presented) A computerized method depending from any one of the claims above wherein:

said storing of information nodes and calculation of ordinal rank is done on a server computer; and

said user selections and said user interfaces are provided, and said displaying of said nodes are performed on, a client computer connected to said server computer through a computer network.

39. (New) A computerized method of collaboratively ordering information comprising:

storing a plurality of information nodes;

providing a user interface that;

displays a plurality said nodes in a list under another of said nodes that functions as a parent node; and

enables a users to give a desired ordinal rank to each of a plurality of said listed nodes by changing the order in which such a node is listed under said parent node in said display;

calculating a group ordinal ranking of each of a set of nodes under said parent node, as a function of said ordinal rank given to each of said nodes by each of a group of individual users; and

displaying said set of nodes under said parent node ordered in a list as a function of the group ordinal ranking calculated.

40. (New) A computerized method as in Claim 39 wherein said user interface enables a user to change the order in which a given node is listed under the parent node by dragging a visual representation of the given node to a desired position in said list.

41. (New) A computerized method as in Claim 39 wherein:

said user interface enables a user to change the order in which a given node is listed under the parent node by placing one of a set of ordered symbols next to the representation of the given node in said list; and

said user interface reorders said visual representation as a function of the order of the ordered symbols associated with one or more of said given nodes.